

**C. REMARKS**

Reconsideration and allowance are requested in view of the amendments made herein. Claims 1-9 and 12-20 stand rejected. Applicants have herein amended claims 1, 12, 13 and 16-18 and have canceled claims 3 and 15. Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 1, 2, 4-9, 12-14 and 16-20 will be pending in this application with claims 1, 8 and 12 being independent claims. Support for the claims is found throughout the specification. No new matter has been added.

**35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejections**

Claims 1-9 and 12-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,790,563 to Ramamurthy et al. ("Ramamurthy") and U.S. Patent No. 5,875,293 to Bell et al. ("Bell"). Applicants have herein canceled claims 3 and 15. Applicants traverse the rejections of the remaining claims for at least the following reasons.

Applicants submit that neither Ramamurthy nor Bell teach or suggest all of the elements of independent claims 1, 8 and 12. For example, neither Ramamurthy nor Bell teach or suggest, among other things, "a time measurement circuit ... for measuring timing characteristics of test signals" as claimed in independent claim 1, "a time distortion circuit ... for introducing predetermined timing distortions into the test signal" as claimed in independent claim 8, or "measuring at least one timing characteristic of the test signal received with a time measurement circuit" as claimed in independent claim 12. Applicants also respectfully submit that the Office has not identified a "time measurement circuit," a "time distortion circuit," or "measuring at least one timing characteristic" in the rejections made in the Office Action.

Applicants submit that claims 2, 4-7, 9, 13, 14 and 16-20 are allowable at least by virtue of their dependency on independent claims 1, 8 and 12 which, as Applicants describe hereinabove, are patentable over the cited art.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that the pending claims are allowable and respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 2, 4-9, 12-14 and 16-20.

**D. CONCLUSION**

Applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance and request favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

September 12, 2005



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